

Hurricane Katrina USCG Safety Officer After Action Report Summary

NIEHS WETP
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Overview

- Operations
 - Initial
 - Long term
- Challenges
- Personnel involved
- Lessons Learned
- Recommendations



“Normal” CG Daily Operations

- Search and Rescue (SAR)
 - Air & surface ops
- Harbor patrols
- Over-flights of waterways
- Port, facility & vessel safety & security; inspections
- Pollution prevention & response
- Waterways management
- Aids to navigation (buoys)



Operations for this response

- Inland SAR
- Replenishment
- Building & equipment assessments; reconstitution
- Dependents
- Hazmat



Personnel involved

- Every aspect of every CG job – done with personnel from all over

Safety personnel:

- IMAT
- Unit Safety Officer
- CG IH & SEH program



All done under extraordinary conditions....



How did we overcome?

- A lot of improvising – which is often difficult for SEH professionals:
- SSP
- MBWA (management by walking around)
- Be the “mole”
- CNN
- Remain flexible
- Never lose your sense of humor

Lessons Learned - Operations

- Command & Control issues
- Pre-stage & deploy
- Safe Work Practices (SWPs)
- Evaluate and manage risk
- Know (& befriend) key players (esp. facility engineers; bldg managers)
- Look at all aspects of response – RVs to ops
- Maintain solid daily logs
- Most importantly – trust & buy-in from leaders

Lessons Learned - Personnel

- Specialized personnel – identify & stand-by
- Flight safety officer – get one quick!
- Responders – ensure not only trained, but immunized
- PPE: different ops = different PPE needs
- Stress management – crucial
- Patience, Patience, Patience...

Lessons Learned - Logistics

- Beforehand – know equipment needs, stock no., prices, etc. – nothing will arrive quickly, but this makes it easier
- Take whatever you can, PPE or otherwise
- Know what the local hardware stores carry
- Trained staging manager – know & reverse
- “Go-bags” with wide range of supplies
- And a touch of creativity....

Lessons Learned - Administrative

- Communications – crucial but non-existent initially – have back up plans
- SSP template & hazards categorized
- Checklists of high hazards to be evaluated in field
- Standing orders for safety observers/assistants
- Coordinate efforts with Medical & Worklife personnel

In Summary

- Prepare, Prepare, and Prepare – yes, much of our job can be done beforehand
- Flexibility
- Creativity
- Sensitivity
- Sense of humor
- And lastly, be willing to learn from your mistakes and move on

Questions or comments?

Thank you for your time

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